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**Contact:** Jim Campbell, Plant Manager (360) 260-6300 Ext 291

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## Sustainability at Larch Corrections Center

### Operations

- **Food Composting:** Since the start up of the in-vessel composting machine, [Larch Corrections Center](#) has composted all kitchen food waste that had previously been sent to the local landfill. The machine is capable of accepting 1,000 pounds of waste per day. Larch has processed an average of 20,000 pounds through the machine per month. This has reduced the facility's Dumpster tipping fee by \$650 per month. All composted materials are used in the gardens and flower beds.
- **Baled Trash:** All non-recyclable loose trash is baled in the garbage recycling center. Prior to baling the loose trash Larch was filling one 30-yard Dumpster per week. Since we started baling we have reduced Dumpster deliveries to once per month. This has reduced the dumpster pickup and delivery costs by \$351.00 per month.
- **Baled Trash:** Staff members now bale non-recyclable trash.
- **Recyclables:** All cardboard is sorted and baled for recycling. The average monthly weight of the recycled cardboard is 3,200 pounds. Aluminum cans are collected and recycled for an average of 42 pounds per month. All tin cans from the kitchen are compacted, baled, and taken to a local recycling center. This equates to 950 pounds of tin per month.
- **Low-Voltage Task Lighting:** The facility purchased LED desk lamps that use only 0.5 watts of power and provide 60 watts of natural lighting.
- **Boiler Room Efficiencies:** All water-heating pumps are controlled by an ambient air temperature sensor. When the outside temperature reaches 70 degrees the circulation pumps turn off. Water temperatures in the potable water heat exchangers were lowered from 150 degrees to 130 degrees. Updated electronic controls were installed on the two older water boilers. Larch now uses an average of 485 fewer gallons per month.
- **Bulk Milk:** Larch provides bulk milk. As a result it now sends 18,000 fewer milk cartons to local landfills each month and lowered its monthly milk costs by \$88.
- **Lighting Efficiencies:** Larch disabled more than 110 fluorescent light fixtures after determining that many offices and hallways were "over-lit."
- **Lawn Mowers and Trimmers:** In 2005 Larch replaced gas-powered lawn mowers with push reel mowers to reduce fuel consumption, maintenance costs and air pollution. Gas-powered weed trimmers were replaced with rechargeable ones.
- **Electric Utility Carts:** Two gas-powered Cushman utility carts were replaced with electric-powered carts.
- **Antifreeze Recycling:** The maintenance shop recycles all automotive anti-freeze rather than it being discarded as hazardous waste.
- **Building Deconstruction:** All unusable lumber from demolition projects is taken to a local lumber recycling center where is converted into mulch that is sold to the public. Offenders also remove reinforced steel so it can be recycled and send leftover concrete to a local vendor at no charge.

- **Toner Cartridges:** All used toner cartridges used in the institution are collected by the warehouse staff and shipped to the vendor for recycling.
- **Mattresses and Pillow Recycling:** All offender mattresses and pillows that have exceeded their usefulness are baled and transported by Correctional Industries to be recycled.
- **Herbicides and Fertilizers:** Larch has restricted the use of any fertilizers or herbicides on the institution grounds.
- **Rainwater Collection System:** Larch is installing two 2,500-gallon tanks to collect rainwater. The rainwater will be used to wash DOC and DNR vehicles and to water flowers and turf.
- **Trashcan Liner Reduction:** Since November 2005 Larch has reduced the number of trashcan liners it has sent to landfills by more than 93,000. The effort has saved an estimated \$34,944.
- **Chemical Review Committee:** The Chemical Review Committee has reduced the number of harsh chemicals used at the facility by identifying more environmentally friendly alternatives.
- **Water Conservation:** Larch has significantly reduced the amount of grassy areas that are sprinkled throughout the summer months.
- **Reusable Offender Store Bags:** Larch issues the offenders reusable cloth grocery bags to pick up store items. It has reduced the number of plastic bags that are sent to local landfills.
- **Sand Bags:** Larch uses used offender jeans to make sand bags. They last longer than plastic ones and reduce solid waste.

### More Information

Visit the Department of Corrections' [sustainability website](#) for statewide information.